

MINUTES

Nov. 29 • 5:45 p.m.
Witherspoon 323

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jacqueline Indula, Christine Dipietro, Adam Downing, Brittany Farrell, Joe Humphries, Keitris Weathersbe, Tyler Dukes, Lauren Gould, Brian Ware, Brandon Wright, Will Quick, Adam Compton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Darryl (DJ) Hardy

OTHERS PRESENT: Bradley Wilson, Jamie Gilbert, Martha Collins

OLD BUSINESS

1. Hiring of *Agromeck* editor
2. *Americana* proposal review
3. Constitutional revision review

Board members interviewed Brandon Wright, the only applicant for the position of *Agromeck* editor after the resignation of Cynthia Rouf. The Board unanimously approved Wright as the new editor.

After review of the proposal, Board members indicated their desire to see if anyone was interested in being *Americana* editor to serve as the manager for two or three Web staff members who would serve, like the business office, as a service group to the other media as well as developing a self-perpetuating *Americana* site.

Because of other commitments, Board members did not have time to deal with this issue tonight. However, they were reminded that if the Board did not vote in the new changes before Feb. 1, the election in the spring of 2007 would have to take place under the old rules meaning the Board for 2007-2008 would be the Board as it is structured now with seven elected students and six student editors and no professionals or academics. The March election must, by campus referendum, now include the Board reform whether or not this Board votes on interim rules that reflect the proposed changes and someone needs to be working on the ballot wording.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Student Media Advisory Board may adjourn into executive session to discuss matters of litigation, potential litigation or personnel.

ADJOURN

Americana Proposal

Mission

Americana's mission is to produce a student web publication which informs the campus community of issues and concepts that affect our lives in both overt and subtle ways, and promise to shape our futures. It will contribute to the creation of a more dynamic, vibrant, and rigorous intellectual atmosphere on the N.C. State Campus. It will use its unique medium to encourage artistic and journalistic expression in all forms, and heighten the awareness and appreciation of the arts and letters at N.C. State.

History

Americana was launched in 2001 as outlet for works of arts and journalism that did not have another place on campus. It was proposed to include news and opinion, features, creativity (art and literary) and humor in a bi-weekly e-publication.

Current status

Publication of the *Americana* was suspended following its April 17, 2006 issue when no editor was hired for the upcoming semester. The main problems identified with the publication are staff retention and a lack of content.

Proposal for revision of Americana

Americana will be redeveloped as an online submission medium for art and literary material created by N.C. State students, faculty, staff and alumni. Content will include categories for fiction, non-fiction, poetry, music and visual art. News and feature articles will not be accepted, but redirected to the *Technician* or *Nubian Message*. Contributors will be required to and include their name, N.C. State affiliation, email address and certification they own the copyright to the submitted material. They are already allowed to upload material to the *Americana* site. Rather than rely on staff members to create content, as staff retention was a considerable problem for the publication, *Americana* will solicit material from the university community. All submissions will be uncompensated. An *Americana* editor will be hired in compliance with Student Media policies. The editor will review all submissions on a weekly basis, post accepted submission to the *Americana* site and generate rejection notices. No other *Americana* staff will be hired.

This redesign will allow for a greater number of submissions to *Americana*. A submission can be posted on the *Americana* site as soon as it is reviewed. Rather than having bi-weekly issues, *Americana* will adopt an evolving issue model. As work is accepted and published it will be added to the current issue, allowing readers to view the issue as it develops. There will be three issues per year to coincide with the academic calendar.

Americana will remain a completely separate entity from *Windhover*. The editor of *Windhover* may, at his or her discretion, contact individual contributors to *Americana* and encourage they submit material to *Windhover*.

The Open Mic Night popularized by *Americana* will be organized and executed by WKNC 88.1 FM. The Open Mic Nights will continue under the *Americana* name, co-billed with WKNC. The Open Mic Night can be recorded and edited for later broadcast on WKNC or upload to the *Americana* site. Participants can choose not to have their material included. Students will continue to have the creative outlet of an Open Mic Night, but with greater exposure through a partnership with WKNC.

After hiring an editor, remaining funds from *Americana's* personnel budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year (\$5,800 minus the editor's salary) will be used to fund two to three newly created staff positions specializing in Web development. These staff will be a service group to all Student Media operations and work under Student Media's systems administrator Scott Zekanis. The structure of the group will be modeled after the photography and business office models already in place in Student Media. Anticipated projects include working with *Technician* and WKNC on news podcasts, major Web site design projects, creating and maintaining a database of Student Media alumni, generating monthly reports on Student Media Web use and developing new ways for Student Media to utilize Web resources. Day-to-day Web operations would remain the duty of each medium's Webmaster.